

BOARD MEETINGS:  
3rd Thursday, 6:30 PM

GENERAL MEETINGS:  
3rd Thursday, 7:00 PM

Springhill Church  
4769 West Babcock, Bozeman

#### OUR PURPOSE:

Shall be to perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in the back country and assist the various government agencies in their maintenance and management of the resource and to educate, encourage and solicit active participation by various members of the general public in the wise and sustaining use of horses, commensurate with our heritage and the back country resource.

#### 2024 OFFICERS, 1 YEAR

##### PRESIDENT

Henry Glenn ... 578-2084  
sedancowboy@outlook.com

##### VICE PRESIDENT

Sid Boswell ... 595-7197  
sid@sidboswell.com

##### TREASURER

Carmen Matzick ... 600-1379

##### SECRETARY

Kathy VanDyke ... 209-0613

##### DIRECTORS

###### ONE YEAR TERM

Bob Criswell ... 595-8150

Dan Porter ... 539-0879

Devon Kerley ... 704-562-5021

###### TWO YEAR TERM

Laurie Connelly ... 579-2859

Nanci Marx ... 763-4172

Lew Goodpasture ... 575-639-9091

##### STATE BOARD MEMBERS

Chris Nygren (1 year) ... 546-7550

Dan Marsh (2 year) ... 587-7578

##### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Brant Robey... 223-3077  
pbrantr@gmail.com

##### BCH WEB MASTER

Dan Marsh ... 587-7578  
[webmaster@bchmt.org](mailto:webmaster@bchmt.org)  
<https://gvbch.bchmt.org>

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

BOARD MEETING : OCTOBER 17, 6:30 PM

Springhill Church

GENERAL MEETING : OCTOBER 17, 7:00 PM

Springhill Church



#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Hello everyone:

We have had a busy summer and a nice fall. I hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful fall weather and getting in plenty of riding.

Packing crews have been busy this summer and I want to thank everyone who helped with the packing projects this year.

We had a great time at the Spanish Creek BBQ and if you missed it be sure to make plans to attend next summer. The A-B Wilderness trips were a success and everyone who went had a good time. If staying in the wilderness for a week at a time interest you be sure and sign up next summer.

Coming up is the nominating committee looking for qualified people to run for our board of Directors and our officers. If you have a interest in serving our chapter contact the nominating committee.

May God bless the trails you ride, Henry

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 19**

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 19**

Roll Call: Sid Boswell, Kathy VanDyke, Nanci Marx, Dan Porter, Lew Goodpasture, Laurie Connelly, Dan Marsh (proxy for Bob Criswell), Chris Nygren

**CALLED TO ORDER BY SID BOSWELL**

**MINUTES OF AUGUST 2024 MEETING**

Dan Marsh moved to approve the minutes as written; Laurie seconded; the motion passed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Sid reported on the chapter's checking and savings accounts, and a CD (just rolled to new CD at 4.74% interest). The chapter received several donations and paid several expenses. Chris moved to approve the report; Laurie seconded; the motion passed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Meeting space: Some problems have arisen with the use of Springhill Church as our meeting place, and it may be necessary to find a new space beginning in 2025. Eagle Mount was suggested; Sid will check out the fairgrounds.

**VOLUNTEER HOURS**

Dan needs to receive volunteer hour reports by October 1, and he will need mileage reports by November 1. You can find forms on the GV BCH website.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

A committee will be appointed in October. We'll be looking for four officers, three 2-year directors, one state director (2-year term) and one alternate director (1-year term).

**OLD BUSINESS**

Trail Crew: Dan Porter reported Saturday trail crew stats: 20 members participated at least once on the 14 days the Saturday crew went out; two non-members also participated; the work constituted 59 "man days" and 43 miles of trail cleared. There will likely be only two more Saturday trips and one more Wednesday trip. Dan noted that there are likely to be serious Forest Service staffing issues in 2025 so our services may be even more in demand.

Christmas party: The party will be held on December 7 at Eagle Mount.

BCHMT annual meeting: The 2026 annual meeting will be held in Bozeman and the Grantree has been reserved for the event. The "intro video" is due by March 25, 2025.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Laurie moved to adjourn the meeting; Nanci seconded; the motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

—Submitted by Kathy VanDyke

The program tonight featured an enjoyable talk by Billie Taylor, owner and operator of Yellowstone Roughriders Outfitters, who told us about adventures in YNP riding and packing.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Sid Boswell called the meeting to order.

**MINUTES OF AUGUST 2024 MEETING**

Dan Marsh moved to approve the minutes as written; Chris seconded; the motion passed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Sid reported on the chapter's checking and savings accounts, and a CD (just rolled to new CD at 4.74% interest). The chapter received several donations and paid several expenses. \$6,362 remains available via the RAC grant. Laurie moved to approve the report; Jim seconded; the motion passed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Meeting space: Some problems have arisen with the use of Springhill Church as our meeting place, and it may be necessary to find a new space beginning in 2025. The new Belgrade library and the FWP community room were suggested as possibilities.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Volunteer hours: Dan needs to receive volunteer hour reports by October 1, and he will need mileage reports by November 1. You can find forms on the GV BCH website.

Nominating Committee: A committee will be appointed in October. We'll be looking for four officers, three 2-year directors, one state director (2-year term) and one alternate director (1-year term).

Trail Crew: Dan Porter reported Saturday trail crew stats: 20 members participated at least once on the 14 days the Saturday crew went out; two non-members also participated; the work constituted 59 "man days" and 43 miles of trail cleared. There will likely be only two more Saturday trips and one more Wednesday trip.

Christmas party: The party will be held on December 7 at Eagle Mount.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Laurie moved to adjourn the meeting; Jim seconded; the motion passed, and the meeting adjourned.

—Submitted by Kathy VanDyke

Where to start??

Some time ago the GVBCH board had a discussion about packing in treated timbers as opposed to untreated "native" ones for use as water bars and steps. All agreed that treated ones would last much longer, and purchase of treated ones was approved.

Several weeks ago, Josh Kinsel, our trails coordinator for the forest service, contacted me regarding "Wild Montana" needing a trails project for September 14th-15th. He had proposed that they work on clearing sediment and doing general maintenance on the main Hellroaring trail and possibly I could work with them on the switchbacks on that same trail. I wrote back and suggested that it might be more productive if they traipsed up the Little Hellroaring trail out of Spanish Creek and installed more water bars and or steps. He agreed.

Further discussion revealed that the water bars we had already installed on that trail were a "bit too small" and that an 8" diameter log is a "good compromise", with FS specs calling for 12" diameter. Wasting no time, I discussed the situation with Lew, priced 8" diameter treated timbers, calculated what the best length of log to purchase and ordered 30 8" diameter ten-foot-long treated logs from Myrstol Post and Pole. They are expensive! We figure once installed they will last a long time, and still be working when we are "Ghost Riders in the Sky". I borrowed a flatbed trailer from a client/friend, picked up the logs from Myrstol already paid for using our RAC grants, and beelined to Lew's place where we cut ten of them into 42" pieces.

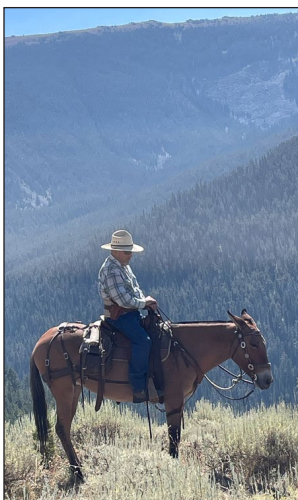
Now for today's events...Negotiating the severe washboard on the Spanish Creek Road, Lew and I arrived at the parking lot at approximately 8:15 am. Equestrian users were plentiful, using the campsites and "our" corrals...a good thing...as well as several electric fenced areas.

Wasting no time, we got our riding steeds and two pack mules, Clyde and Yukon, ready to go. The 8" logs proved to be a bit of a challenge at an average 80 lbs./two. Enter Bill Holmes!! Bill is a member of Wenaas Valley BCH in Washington State. He "knows" mules and packing. With no hesitation he jumped in to help us. Long story short. The 3 of us made two trips up the steep Little Hellroaring trail and packed in approximately 640 pounds of treated logs for "Wild Montana" crews to install the weekend of 9/14-15.

Thank you, Lawrence and Kathy, for letting us use Clyde...Thank you, Lew, for hauling the pack stock and packing in, and a huge Thank you!!! to Bill Holmes for helping us pack logs up Little Hellroaring while his lady friend went riding up to the Spanish Lakes!! What a Guy!

Needless to say, we were all pretty tired by days end, but to top it off, Lisa from Arizona, who was camped there all week made a \$100 donation to GVBCH!

Oh, and by the way, we have 16 more treated logs to pack in Little Hellroaring so that the Wild Montana crew can install them. Best of all...we have 20 more treated timbers that we can cut to length and pack in wherever we see a need for long lasting water diversions.



Livin' the Dream!! Dan Porter

Lew, Curt, Tom and I met at Spanish Creek to pack in more logs for use on the Little Hellroaring Trail #400. We loaded 4 of the 8"x42" logs each on Yukon and Clyde and 2 of the 7" x 6' logs on each of Curt's pack horses. We were loaded and on our way up the trail by about 10:30 am, dropped off the "short" logs along the way and reached the crest at two miles in where we dropped off the 6 footers. I estimate that we had now packed in approximately 1,100 lbs. of treated timbers up that trail during 3 trips.

By then it was noon thirty, so we found some shade and enjoyed a relaxing lunch with views of Diamond Peak, Blaze Mountain and the distant skyline west where we knew the Jerome Rock Lakes, Big Brother and Cowboy Heaven reside.

Returning down the trail, Tom and I used a Silky saw to remove a few smaller trees that we noticed the packed logs were hitting on the way up.

Thank you, Lew, Curt, and Tom, for helping pack in the materials that the Wild Montana crews will be installing this coming weekend 9/14-15.

At the trailhead by 3pm, I decided to ride up the 407 for an hour or so. My horse would have preferred to go home instead but I think we both appreciated the level and softer tread of the 407 after making 8 trips up the steep and sometimes rocky Little Hellroaring trail this year. I saw one Ruff that had so far avoided the hunter's quest and passed hikers, joggers, and one skier returning from a day in the mts.

On the way out through the ranch I encountered a "Bison Blockade" on the bridge over the North Fork similar to the same situation on the way in that morning. Both times the herd had two cars at a dead stop that delayed our progress for several minutes until they decided to move on.

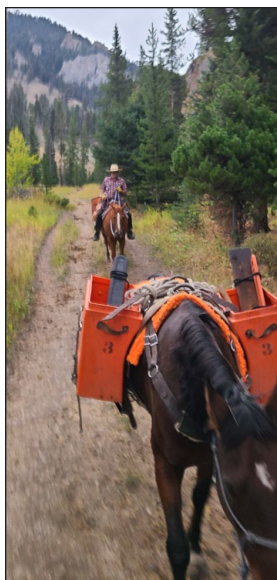
PS. I noticed that the Spanish Creek corrals are in need of repair but unfortunately forgot to count how many rails need replacing. Dean Vine has donated the rails, and I believe Sid plans to pick them up, but whether that project will happen this coming weekend or not is unknown. Either way I plan to leave the tools in the trailer and ride up to Lake Solitude this coming Saturday, returning in time for the BBQ at the cabin.

Livin the Dream! Dan Porter



We tried to get a big crew together to clear from Buffalo Horn Trailhead to Dailey Pass but all we could muster was myself and Tim Butler. We had planned to leave the trailhead at 9:00 except I didn't get there until 8:30 due to single lane traffic at Lava Lake Road, and as of 10:00 there was still no sign of Tim. I was about to head out on my own and cut a few logs when Tim arrived. Tim had a tire blow out on his trailer on 191 before the traffic snarl. After Tim saddled up, we hit the trail at 10:50AM. The weather was cool and cloudy for most of the day but not many flies. We met some people at the cabin and ran into trees shortly after that. We got to the pass and the sign for Dailey Pass was on the ground, so it was a good thing we had been there a few times and knew to take a left. We got up the steep hill and on to the ridge near the National Park Boundary. Tim got out his Elk bugle and tried to get a response, but we didn't hear an answer the entire way down. The sign at the NP boundary was also down on the ground so it was reported to the Forest Service when I got back. In all, we cut out 33 trees and brushed about 100 feet when we stopped to cut trees. The wind was howling on the ridge, so we decided to head down the Dailey Pass trail to get out of the wind and stopped at 3:30PM for lunch. At 4:00PM we worked our way down cutting trees as we went and headed back to the trailhead. We got back around 6:00PM just as it started to rain. My divider on the new trailer once again popped a button off the padded panel and wore a new hole in my horse that was just starting to heal from the last trip. I ripped the panel out of the trailer and shoved it in the back of the truck and down the road we went. As you might have known there was a weather warning that came out for high 70 mph winds and rain from 7:30-8:00PM and I ran into tree limbs flying into the road and rain the whole way home. I haven't had many pictures of me for the last few projects because I was the one taking the pictures. (I miss Kenji.) I had Tim take a couple of me with my phone, but I still don't have any pictures.

With the lack of enthusiasm for doing Wednesday clearings lately, along with the weather and sun getting up later and sun going down earlier, our Wednesday Crew may be coming to an end for the season. — Dan Marsh



Mark Deopsomer and I met at Spanish Creek for a planned fun ride to Lake Solitude. Leaving the trailhead promptly at 9am as planned, we rode out the 407, meeting a number of hikers and backpackers along the way. We reached the turn where the trail #413 heads up Hermit creek and begins to climb steeply to the Falls Creek divide. Along the way we removed a number of deadfall and small leaners that were presenting safety hazards. Proceeding on we noted the "Blaze" snowfield is now very much reduced in size. It can be seen in one of the photos provided. Reaching the lake at around 1 pm, we relaxed for 30 minutes while eating lunch, watching fish rise in the lake, discussing world events, and checking out the snow covered slopes for any movement of wildlife. It was easy to see why they named the lake Solitude. Returning I spotted several small frogs in one of the seeps we crossed but no other wildlife other than numerous juncos, a few Stellar's Jays and an occasional Nutcracker were in evidence. At the creek crossing we met a young man from New Mexico headed north and hiking the "Big Sky route" of the CDT. We had walked on foot down to just before the crossing, being easy on the horses, and now being mounted again we returned to the campground just in time for the GVBCH cookout.

Reports are that the Wild Montana crew, with help from Forest Service members, installed most of the dams and water bars we packed in to Little Hellroaring over their Saturday-Sunday weekend project. Its great to be able to combine our efforts and skills with other like-minded organizations to help maintain our trails. The plan is to identify other areas that are in serious need of tread rehabilitation and pack in more of the long-lasting treated logs to those places for installation by willing volunteers.

Livin' the Dream, Dan Porter

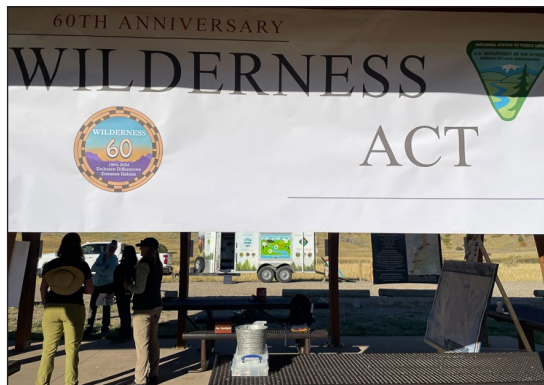
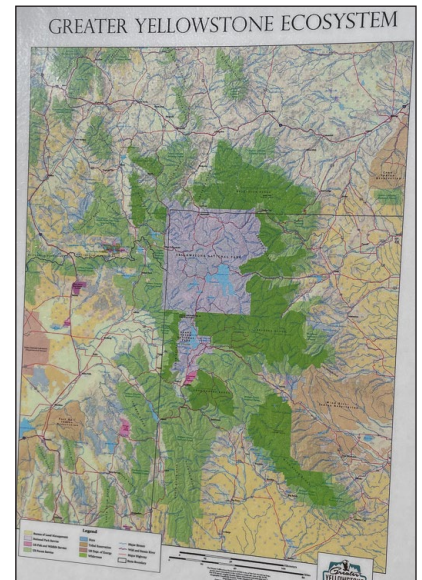
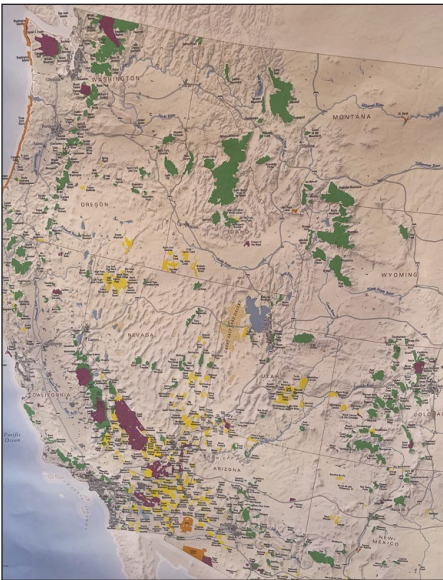
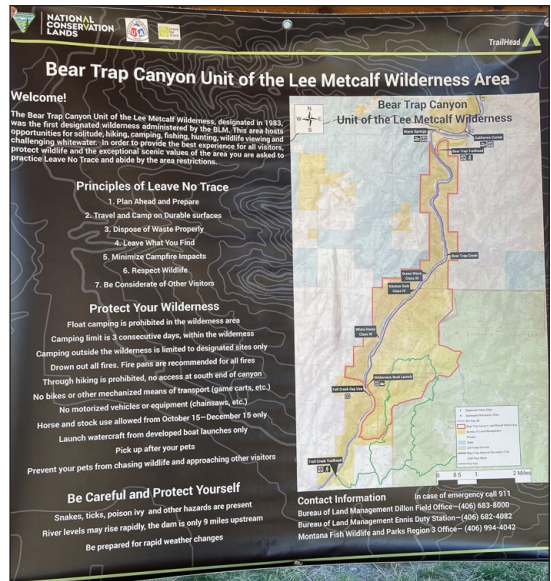


The Blaze



On Saturday I drove over to the Bear Trap Canyon to attend the Celebration of the 60 year Anniversary of the Wilderness Act. The BLM Ranger Tamara Tollett had done a great job of organizing. There were representatives from BLM, the Forest Service, Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, as well as Jen Mueller with her incredible new "Weed Trailer". I have attached several photos of maps on display. One takeaway for me from looking at the maps was that the percentage of our public lands that is actually protected by Wilderness is surprisingly small. I am so glad that our leaders back in the 1960's had the foresight to protect some of our public lands for us to enjoy, without the threat of drilling, mining, development, new roads, and the sound of motors running...a chance to slow down to the "3 mile per hour" lifestyle, even if its just for a few hours or a day here and there.

—Dan Porter



**GVBCH IS INDEBTED TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES & MEMBERS  
WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR 2023 POKER RIDE**

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